

In 1920, there were 10,000,000 Americans in 48 states.

In 1929, there were 26,000,000 Americans in 48 states.

I. Post-war Economy

A. After the war, there was a slight economic depression.

1. 11.9% unemployment
2. Very few jobs for the returning soldier
3. Farmers suffered greatly because there was less demand for food
 - a. Purchased new equipment and new land to cultivate more crops and provide the world with more food.
 - b. Less need for food in the international world because European farmers were again farming their own lands
 - c. Food prices plunged
 - d. Farm problems lasted the entire decade

B. Residential construction doubled as people continued to move into the cities

- A city was defined as a town having more than 2500 people

C. Road construction also made it easier for people to get around.

1. By 1927, there were 50,000 miles of paved road
2. Construction industries helped grow other industries
 - a. Steel
 - b. Lumber
 - c. Concrete
 - d. Home mortgages and insurance

D. Diets continued to be more varied as canning and transport of fruits and vegetables.

- Canned food made meals easier and quicker

E. Automobile

1. 1/7 of America's steel was used in building cars
2. estimates of 1 in 4 people worked in the auto industry
3. by 1925, the assembly line at Ford could produce an auto every 10 seconds
4. By 1927, 15,000,000 Ford Model T's had been sold
5. By 1930, 2 farm families in 3 had a car
 1. When asked why a have a car and not have indoor plumbing, one woman replied, "you can't go to town in a bathtub"

F. Consumption

1. The higher wages a person was paid, the more \$\$ they had to spend and the greater the ability to buy high dollar items
2. This led to a highly materialistic society
 - Materialism: the tendency to be more concerned with material wealth rather than spiritual or intellectual values

G. Advertising

1. War propaganda revitalized the advertising industry
2. More and better advertising made good look better
3. Advertising began to go after the "average, normal American"

H. Installment Buying

- sewing machines
- Cars
- Washing machines

- Purchases consumers made were spurred on by advertisements convincing people to buy things they did not need

II. Xenophobia

A. Sacco and Vanzetti

1. Two Italian immigrants were indicted for robbery and a murder
2. Arrested largely because they were immigrants
3. Convicted and sentenced to death
4. Appealed for 6 years and even after someone else confessed to committing the crime, the men were executed

B. Nativism

1. hostility to foreigners
2. After the war, many Americans wanted to limit the number of immigrants that came into America
3. As the economy boomed and then busted (and then boomed again), there were labor strikes
4. The unrest in America's businesses was blamed largely on immigrants
5. many Americans were again afraid after the war and wanted to get rid of the immigrants or at very least not allow any more in the country

C. Emergency Quota Act 1921

1. limited total number of immigrants to no more than 150,000 per year

D. National Origins Act 1924

1. continued to tighten immigration legislation
2. Set quotas at 2% of each national group residing in the country in 1890
3. in 1929, the quota was changed to reflect a limit of 150,000 per year based on the 1920 census
4. Due to the dates in which quotas were based on, there were great limits placed on immigration coming from Southern and Eastern Europe while Northern and Western Europe could bring in more people

E. Ku Klux Klan

1. Resurgence due to the fear of immigrants
2. Went beyond the original ideas of keeping former slaves from voting
3. Targeted African Americans, Catholics, Jews, Latinos, socialist
4. Also targeted any other person who does not "embrace" the Klan's ideas of what was of value
5. Klan gatherings usually included the whole family in picnic form
6. Was not restricted just to the south. Moved quickly to northern cities as that is where more varied ethnicities were found
7. Looking for an America free from foreigners
8. By the end of 1921, there were more than a million members
9. By 1925, when the leader was sent to prison for rape and murder, any influence the Klan held began to wane.

III. A New World

- A. After the war there was a huge change in how people behaved.
- B. "Eat, Drink, and be Merry" was the attitude many of the younger generation had
- C. Women were more and more out of the home seeking the pleasures of life and earning their own money
- D. Men and women began breaking the traditions of their past and began living for self
 - 1. Hedonism: self indulgent pursuit of pleasure as a way of life
 - 2. Individualism: leading one's life in one's own way
- E. As women became more liberated ...
 - 1. clothing and hair styles changed
 - a. No corsets (bras)
 - b. Not petticoats (stockings)
 - 2. Women became known as Flappers
 - a. term first occurred in Great Britain
 - b. women began wearing heavy cosmetics
 - c. very short hair
 - d. Openly drank and smoked in public even though the 18th amendment was in place
 - e. Went to night clubs to dance and listen to jazz music
 - f. no waistline in the clothes
 - g. even older women adopted some of these styles
 - 3. raccoon coats (for men and women)
 - 4. Women wanted the image of being sexy and vivacious
 - 5. birth control became available (although often illegal
 - 6. even though some women worked hard for the right to vote, they seldom used it
 - 7. New career opportunities
 - a. Hairdressers
 - b. Manicurists
 - c. Graduate school (many earned Ph. D.)
 - d. Decline in female medical doctors because colleges declined their applications due to the quota's that were set on how many women could enter medical school
- F. Prohibition (18th Amendment; Volstead Act)
 - 1. Went into effect January 1920
 - 2. prohibited the manufacture, sale, and distribution of alcoholic beverages
 - 3. ideals behind it were in place as long ago as the 17th century
 - 4. various anti drinking groups were around through the years
 - a. Women's Christian Temperance League
 - 1) looking for educational, social, and political means to end alcohol
 - b. Prohibition Political Party
 - 5. people could still drink and serve drinks from liquor they already had they just could not make or sell more liquor
 - 6. Led to the rise of Speakeasies
 - Encouraged law abiding citizens to break the law and sneak Alcohol
 - 7. Gangsters of the 20's
 - a. sold alcohol and were glorified for it
 - b. Bought off government officials so they would look the other way while they consumed alcohol

- c. Congress and Presidents said what a great idea prohibition was but were often regular customers at speakeasies
- d. very few police dedicated to enforcing the law
- e. never completely stopped consumption but did greatly decrease it
- f. Repealed with the 21st amendment (the only one to be thus removed)

G. Literature

- 1. F. Scott Fitzgerald ("Bernice bobs her Hair" *The Great Gatsby*)
- 2. Zora Neale Hurston (*Their Eyes Watching God*)
- 3. William Faulkner (*The Sound and the Fury*)
- 4. Ernest Hemingway (*A Farewell to Arms*)
- 5. e.e. Cummings (poet)
- 6. Eugene O'Neill (playwright)
- 7. Agatha Christie (Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot mysteries)

H. Movies

- 1. This type of entertainment was originally black and white with no speaking
- 2. music would be played by an organist and between each segment of movie, there would be a segment of words
- 3. Famous Actors/Actresses
 - a. Rudolph Valentino
 - b. Al Jolson (*The Jazz Singer* the first talkie)
 - c. Gloria Swanson (lost her career after the coming of talkies)

IV. An Ever Changing Culture

A. Religion

- 1. As the progressive era ended, many of these folks turned toward modernism and the social gospel
- 2. There were also many people who wanted to maintain the traditional values of the Bible
- 3. Movement called Fundamentalism: Belief that there are certain fundamental doctrines that cannot be denied and still be Christian
 - a. authority of scripture
 - b. Christ's deity
 - c. Vicarious atonement (Christ taking our place)
 - d. Christ's resurrections
 - e. The second coming

B. Fundamentalist/Modernist controversy

- 1. battle "waged" over doctrine, controlling schools, mission boards, and other religious institutions
- 2. Outcome of the battle was that some said modernism was not Christianity at all
- 3. Rather than asking modernists to leave churches many fundamentalists left and began new Christian denominations

C. Evolution

- 1. started to be taught as fact in schools
- 2. Christian leaders pushed to ban the teaching of it and in many states were able to push through the ban

3. Tennessee was not one of those states
4. Passed the Butler Act: the state could not teach anything other than creation as the way the world began
5. So, they just avoided the topic so there was no need to talk about creation or evolution
6. Not designed to promote the Bible but rather just to keep quiet about both
7. American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) wanted to challenge the Butler act so they asked John Scopes if he would be willing to be arrested for teaching evolution
8. The defense attorney was Clarence Darrow
9. The prosecution attorney was William Jennings Bryan (who was also a witness)
10. Trial was broadcast on the Radio across the nation and many more listened outside the courthouse
11. The people of Dayton, TN (where the trial was held) had hot dog stands and vendor stands loaded with merchandise (such as Bibles and Monkeys) making the whole thing a huge spectacle
12. At the end of the trial, no thanks to Bryan's testimony, Scopes was convicted and charged \$100 which was later overturned on a technicality

C. Heroes and Villains

1. Gangsters

- a. Bonnie and Clyde
- b. Bugsy Siegel
- c. John Dillinger
- d. Al "Scarface" Capone
 - i. Most notorious
 - ii. Heavy into Bootlegging which earned him a lot of money
 - iii. His gang was very violent
 - iv. Captured by Treasury Agent Elliot Ness
 - v. Sent to Alcatraz for tax evasion
 - vi. Died at 48 due to complications from Venereal Disease

2. Heroes

- a. Babe Ruth
 - i. New York Yankee
 - ii. Known as the "Sultan of Swat"
 - iii. 60 homeruns in the 1927 season
- b. Charles Lindbergh
 - i. 1925 was trained to be a pilot in the Army Air Service
 - ii. Worked as a pilot for the U.S. Mail Service
 - iii. Heard about a prize offered for the first successful solo flight over the Atlantic Ocean
 - iv. Travelled in the "Spirit of St. Louis" in a flight that took 33.5 hours

D. African American roles

1. Harlem Renaissance

- a. African American cultural revolution based in Harlem, NY, which fostered black pride and lifted a race through intellect and the arts
- b. challenged racial stereotypes
- c. involved art, literature, music, dance and theatre

- d. promoted racial integration
 - Formed the roots of the Civil Rights Movement
 - e. Also known as the New Negro Movement or New Negro Renaissance
- 2. Harlem held the largest population of black people in the world
- 3. Authors and Philosophers
 - a. Langston Hughes
 - b. Zora Neale Thurston
 - c. Alain Locke
- 4. Political figures and organizations
 - a. W.E.B. Dubois (NAACP)
 - b. Marcus Garvy (Back to Africa movement)
 - c. National Urban League
- 5. Musicians
 - a. Louis Armstrong
 - b. James Reese Europe
 - c. Fletcher Henderson
 - d. Duke Ellington
- 6. Migration north
 - a. many people moved north after the civil war and during the progressive era moving toward the Great War for factory jobs
 - b. there was lots of post war racial violence which kept blacks from achieving equality with whites

V. Foreign Policy

- A. Two Foreign policy tasks of the 1920's
 - 1. Maintain world peace: America did NOT want to fight any more foreign wars
 - 2. Stabilize world economy: America did NOT want the European economy to affect the American economy
- B. Washington naval Conference
 - 1. 1921
 - 2. Even though war was over, European nations and Japan continued to build their navies
 - 3. diplomats got together and agreed to decrease naval forces
 - 4. also agreed to decrease the number of battleships built but did not stop nations from building submarines, cruisers, or destroyers
- C. Kellogg-Briand Pact
 - 1. International agreement to make war illegal
 - 2. Proposed by Coolidge's Secretary of State, Frank Kellogg and the French Foreign minister Aristide Briand
 - 3. While the it was good in theory and won much praise, there was NO way to enforce this law
- D. Latin America
 - 1. America attempted to mend relationships with Latin American nations
 - 2. Movement to go back to the days when the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe doctrine was not in use
 - 3. This made it easier to have good relations with Central and South American nations

E. Fixing the World Economy

1. European farms and factories were in ruins from the war
2. The foreign governments had massive debts
3. Germany owed \$33 Billion in Reparations
4. Allies owed \$22 Billion in loans to America and American companies
5. American economy was in fairly good condition but still wanted to be repaid what was "owed" them
6. As a result of American demands, European countries pushed Germany to pay what was owed
7. While America paid the original loans in goods (like food and cotton) they wanted repaid with Gold
8. Because Europe was slow in repaying, the Fordney-McCumber tariff was passed in an effort to limit trade with Europe until the bills began to be repaid.
9. Germany could not repay the Allied nations and could only think of one way to get the money to pay the war debt
10. Which nation was in good enough shape to loan Germany the \$\$???